GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1899
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2015
Quality of Drinking Water
Singh Shri Bharat

Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of service centres in the country for checking the quality of potable water, State/UT-wise;
(b) whether a study conducted by UNICEF has revealed that inadequate supply of water and shortage of sanitation has led to improper growth and death of a large number of children under the age of five years in the country;
(c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
(d) whether the Government is providing support for developing cost effective technology to be used by the people in the rural areas of the country for checking the quality of potable water themselves; and
(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE
IN THE MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER & SANITATION
(SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV)

(a) The number of water quality testing laboratories at the State, district, block, sub division levels along with mobile laboratories existing in the country is at Annexure.
(b) & (c) The Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India has conducted a Rapid Survey on Children in 2013-14 with technical and financial assistance from UNICEF, India. As per the survey, every childhood care and the enabling environment like access to drinking water and use of toilet facilities area covered. While access to drinking water in rural schools is a part of National Rural Drinking Water Porgramme (NRDWP), construction of new school toilets is now the responsibility of Ministry of Human Resource Development.
(d) & (e) Under the NRDWP, out of the releases made to the States, 3% funds are earmarked for Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance on 60:40 fund sharing between Centre and State. Under this head, all Gram Panchayats have to be provided with simple to use chemical field test kits to measure major chemical parameters and bacteriological vials to assess biological contamination in drinking water sources by themselves. All positively tested samples have to be brought to the nearest water quality testing laboratory for confirmation. Concerned engineer at the block/ GP level shall ensure proper remediation for safe drinking water if contamination is confirmed in the laboratory.
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